Oxfordshire
Guardian
ABINGDON EDITION

Inside this week:
Tax on tobacco 'could save 200 million lives' p11

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Thursday, January 9 - Wednesday, January 15, 2014
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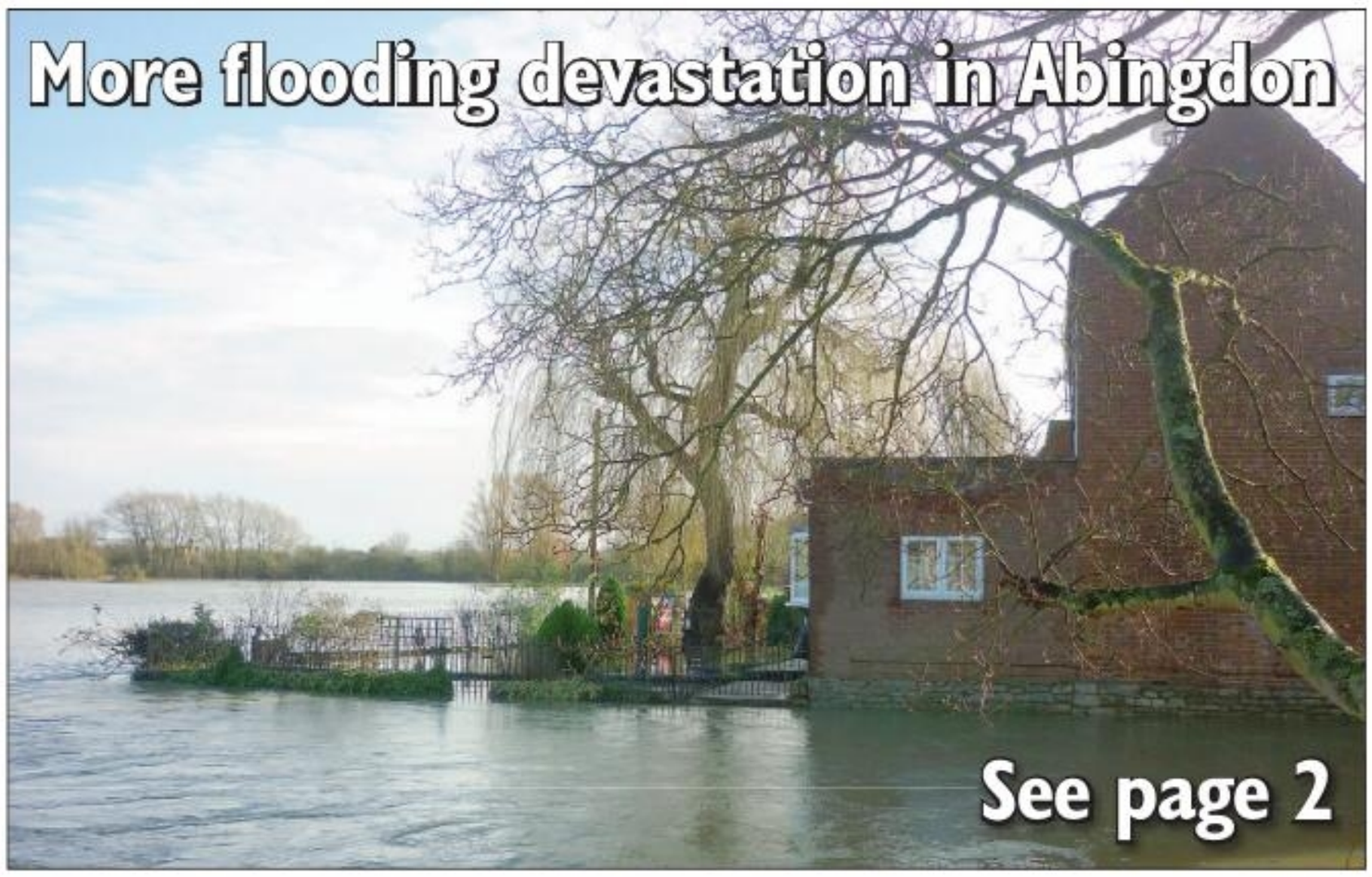
IT DOES HAVE POTENTIAL...

Idea tabled to develop town into a 'Business Improvement District'



By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

DISCUSSIONS have begun as to whether Abingdon should become a Business Improvement District (BID), to help promote local companies around the town centre.

The Choose Abingdon Partnership met with members of the town's Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday night, with the BID receiving a largely positive response. It would see the creation of a trust company that is legally obliged to deliver an action plan businesses vote for, financed by councils, grants, and a levy on business rates.

Around 170 BIDs have been set up across the UK, and if Choose Abingdon decide to go ahead with their proposal, it would be voted upon by businesses at a later date. Jill Carver, secretary of the Abingdon Chamber of Commerce and owner of Added Ingredients on Stert Street, was optimistic at this early stage.

She said: "Accounting for the fact there are 170 around the country successfully doing it, I think it does have potential.

"However this was just a precursor meeting, we've yet to come up with a plan so it's just an idea at the moment."

Sandy Lovatt, leader of Abingdon Town Council and board member for the Choose Abingdon Partnership, also believes a BID would be beneficial for the town.

He said: "I think it would be beneficial because it will raise a lot more money, and will put some longevity and sustainability in the plan.

"It will produce quite a lot of money to enable Abingdon to develop. I don't know how much, but it will basically take the Choose Abingdon Partnership off the taxpayer's bill and make it self-funding. It could be important for Abingdon and it will do a lot for the town.

"We've got to start marketing Abingdon a lot better. That'll probably change the nature of the businesses we get, which will be more suitable to the sort of people who come into the town."

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Floods cause county chaos

HEAVY rain in recent weeks has caused dramatic scenes of flooding around South Oxfordshire, causing travel chaos and misery for affected households.

Rye Farm Car Park in Abingdon was closed due to the floods, while Tollgate Road in Culham was shut to motorists.

Other closures included York Road to Main Street in West Hagbourne, High Street from Clifton Hampden to Long Wittenham, and the A417 at Challow by Mellors Garage.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Cllr Rodney Rose, deputy leader of Oxfordshire County Council, said: "We would advise motorists to take extra care on the roads, and if in any doubt, not to drive through flood water.

"We give advice of this nature not just with the safety of motorists in mind – it's also a question of not creating bow waves that cause problems for nearby properties.

"Along with our partners such as the district councils and the Environment Agency, we have been preparing for flooding. We have also had staff working hard over the festive period dealing with the effects of the weather."

At present, Oxfordshire has been given a medium risk rating for flooding by the Environment Agency.

David Bedlington, regional flood risk manager for the Environment Agency, said: "Our incident rooms remain open, and our staff are working hard to provide up-to-the-minute information.

"We have ambassadors out across the South in areas such as Oxford and Abingdon, advising people of what they can do to reduce the impacts of flooding."

A full list of closures can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

• Top, The path alongside the River Thames is Abingdon is hidden underneath the water. • Below, A motorbike in Hales Meadow Car park, Abingdon, is left partially submerged.

• Top, Flood levels at Abingdon Town Football Club are at a similar height to last year. • Below, Rye Farm Car Park in Abingdon is shut because of extreme flooding

• Water levels breached the pub garden at the Nags Head, Abingdon

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Search still on for new museum site

A SCOUTING museum formerly housed in Youlbury is continuing its search for a new home, after it was demolished in September to make room for new accommodation blocks.

All of the items from the museum are currently in storage, while a new location and additional funds are sought by Oxfordshire Scouting.

It comes during a multi-million pound project to develop the Youlbury site, believed to be the oldest permanent scout site in the world.

Phil Earl, Oxfordshire Scouting county commissioner, said: "The search is not going brilliantly to be honest.

"Youlbury have offered us a space to put up a temporary building but we're not having much luck in raising the funds for that. It's just a bit uncertain at the moment.

"The county has got the resources but what we have to weigh up is whether we should use them to part-fund restoring the museum or for other activities to support the development of young people.

"What we wouldn't want is for the collection to disappear, and one of the other things we need to consider is whether it would be better as part of a larger collection elsewhere. We're looking at a variety of options."

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Building work has begun on the former museum's site as new accommodation blocks are built, as part of around £5m being spent at Youlbury over a five-year period.

Improvements to the site include the toilet and shower facilities being replaced, and an increased range of activities being on offer such as a new climbing tower.

Youlbury is run by the National Scout Association, after ownership of the site was transferred from Oxfordshire Scouting around a decade ago.

Phil added: "One reason why we allowed the site to go back to national is because we weren't able to support the level of investment that was required to make Youlbury a brilliant 21st century provision for scouting.

"The first building in the new plan opened last summer, and planning permission has all been granted for the development.

"It's now just a case of those all coming together over the next few years as the funds get raised to be able to finance it all."

Toilet product team rewarded

AN ABINGDON business has been awarded financial support from the government, for its work in designing and the production of toiletry products.

Kokomo, based in Milton Hill, has claimed back more than £30,000 in research and development (R&D) tax credits, after 13 of its products qualified for the scheme.

The company has been commissioned to create a range of toiletries for renowned British designer Sir Terence Conran, which is also eligible for the tax credits.

Kokomo was advised by Kevin Voller from the Thames Valley office of accountancy firm Chantrey Vellcott DFK.

Mr Voller said: "Kokomo is really innovative and breaking new ground in design and production, which is leading their team looking at new ways of doing things.

"Only projects that seek to achieve an advance in science and technology qualify for R&D tax credits, and Kokomo do that not only in its packaging but also the contents.

"There is a whole host of industry sectors which do similarly innovative work who just never realise what they are doing is pushing back boundaries and forcing advances, and therefore could quite possibly qualify."

• Bruce Cox (left) from Kokomo and Keith Voller from Chantrey Vellacott DFK with some of their products

News Bites

Fight waters

SANDBAGS have been made available to Abingdon residents in genuine need of them, after flooding has become more widespread across the town in recent days.

They can be collected from the Cattle Market Car Park by the Vale of White Horse District Council offices, or from the B&Q car park in Nuffield Way.

Teams of district council workers are also on hand to deliver sandbags directly to properties deemed at high risk of flooding and to vulnerable residents.

Club burgled

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after extensive damage was caused and alcohol stolen from Abingdon Vale Cricket Club.

The incident took place on December 27, and police believe the offenders are a group of six young people aged 16 to 18-years-old.

Investigating officer PC Stephanie Varnes said: "This incident has caused a lot of upset in the local community. It affects the cricket club and also people who use the building."

Call 101 with information.

Get recycling

ABINGDON Town Council, together with TVE Hire and Sales, will be in the Market Place on Saturday to help residents recycle their Christmas trees.

Woodchip from the trees will be used to line the woodland paths in and around Abingdon, which can be brought along between 9am and 3pm.

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Firefighters warn over the dangers of candles

OXFORDSHIRE firefighters are urging residents to be aware of the dangers of candles, after three fires over the festive period were blamed on candles that had been left unattended.

The first fire started in Milton near Bloxham on December 21 after a couple fell asleep having lit a candle and placed it on top of the television, which then caught fire.

A house fire in Henley followed on Christmas Eve due to a candle on a fireplace

The third was at a Middle Barton property on Boxing Day, when a fire began after a candle had inadvertently been left alight overnight.

Stuart Garner, community safety manager for the fire service, said: "Candles are a common sight in homes, either scenting a room or giving an atmospheric glow to cold winter nights.

"As we have seen recently, they are a real fire risk if they are not managed properly and it is very important that candles are not just treated as a decorative feature.

"One of the most important measures to take is having a working smoke alarm. The lives of the Milton couple were undoubtedly saved by others in the property being alerted to the blaze by the smoke alarm.

"It is essential that candles are extinguished before people leave a room or go to sleep and that they are not lit near to flammable materials like curtains, furniture and bedding."

Cllr Louise Chapman, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member with responsibility for the fire and rescue service, echoed Mr Garner's calls.

She said: "Our online Home Fire Risk Check is an ideal opportunity for residents to establish what fire safety steps they should take in the home.

"I would encourage everybody to take a few minutes to complete it and familiarise themselves with high-risk areas."

The fire service have given advice for candle safety, including not to leave them unattended, not burning several candles together and placing them away from objects like curtains and bedding. To complete the Home Fire Risk Check, go to www.365alive.co.uk.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Police appeal after car arson in Bicester

POLICE have released two CCTV images of a man they would like to speak to following an incident where a Mercedes was set on fire in Bicester last month.

At around 6.40am on December 14, unknown offenders used accelerants to set fire to a silver Mercedes on Halifax Road, in Glory Farm.

Police are now appealing for the man in the pictures to come forward, as they believe he may have information relating to the arson.

PC Joe Stafford, from Bicester police station, said: "The damage caused to the victim's car was malicious and unprovoked.

"It is believed that the persons who discarded alcohol bottles near the scene of this incident may have witnessed the offence.

• *CCTV images of the man police would like to speak to*

"I am keen to hear from the man in the CCTV images, as we believe he may have information relating to the arson, or anyone who recognises the man, to contact me via 101.

"We are also appealing for anyone who may have been in the area around the time of the incident and witnessed the arson to come forward."

£5m building plans on show

PLANS for a £5m community building in Bicester will go on show to the public next week, giving residents a chance to see images of the site and give feedback to stakeholder representatives.

The building would house a hotel and commercial uses as part of a multi-million pound development of the current Franklins Yard car park, ahead of the planning application being submitted next month.

The public exhibition will run next Thursday and Friday in the Pop In Café in Manorsfield Road, with the plans available online until the end of the month.

Cllr Norman Bolster, Cherwell District Council's lead member for estates and economy, said: "The Bicester Community Building is the final stage of the town centre regeneration project.

"We have worked hard to strike a balance so the new building will complement and enhance both the modern Pioneer Square development and Bicester's Old Town, while providing a hub for services and business.

"While we are satisfied this project will achieve these objectives, we want to encourage as many residents, traders and visitors to view the plans and give their feedback."

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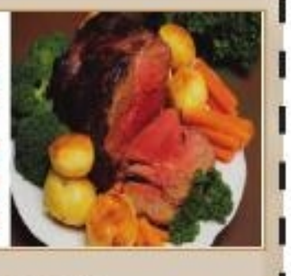

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Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truthis that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Josh a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Duo rob teen of his phone in Oxford

A 19-year-old man has been robbed of his iPhone by two offenders, in an incident which took place on Banbury Road in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Between 1am and 1.30am, the victim was walking along the road when two men got out of a dark blue saloon car and approached him.

They ordered him to hand over the iPhone and ear phones, which he did.

The first offender is Asian with a dark skin tone, in his early to mid twenties, around 6ft 3ins of a heavy build with short black curly hair.

He was wearing white high top trainers fastened with Velcro, dark blue jeans with a white belt, and a dark blue wind breaker jacket.

The second offender is also Asian but with a lighter complexion, around the same age, 6ft 3ins and larger than the first offender.

He had short black hair and facial hair, and was wearing a grey or brown coat with a collar.

The car was described as quite new and in a tidy condition, and police are appealing for witnesses who may have seen the offenders in the area. Anyone with information should contact PC Paul Jones of Oxford CID on 101.

People are still making the wrong decisions

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

IN CONTRAST to the trend across the district, less people were arrested in Oxfordshire during December for drink or drug driving in comparison to last year.

Thames Valley Police made 70 arrests in the county during December 1, 2013, and January 1, 2014, as part of its 'Is it worth the risk?' campaign.

This is a five per cent increase on 2012 where 74 people were arrested for drink or drug driving.

However, this does not mean that Oxfordshire's drivers are the best on the roads and Ch Insp for Thames Valley Roads Policing Unit, Henry Parsons, says officers will continue to be out in force across the year.

"It's worrying that some people are still making the wrong choices, deciding to drink and drive when there are alternatives available," Ch Insp Parsons said.

"Drink-driving is dangerous and it kills or seriously injures many people each year, devastating families.

"I'm grateful for the public support for this campaign that has helped us to be in the right places, at the right times to make these arrests.

"We'll continue to target drink drivers every single day of the year, not just during campaign periods.

"It isn't worth the risk."

Throughout the campaign, officers targeted individuals they suspected of driving under the influence of drink or drugs, both on the way home from nights out and the morning after a heavy night.

This resulted in 231 men and 50 women arrested, equating to a six percent increase in the former and 17 per cent decrease in the latter.

In total, 161 of the arrested people have been charged, with 82 individuals bailed and 38 people released with no further action.

This year's arrests show a one percent increase on the 278 arrests made during the same period in 2012.

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Oxford charity gets boost for Uganda work

AN Oxford-based charity is set to benefit from a government grant to help continue a Ugandan girls' education project.

Twenty Creative Learning Centres have been launched by Viva and its partner in Uganda, CRANE.

The two-year project is part of the global Girls' Education Challenge which has been aided by a significant grant from the Department of International Development.

Viva's aim is to re-integrate vulnerable girls into upper primary and lower secondary school by offering non-formal education through a wide range of subjects.

More than 1,900 girls will return to a form of appropriate education after graduating while a further 2,300 will be impacted through teacher training and family mentoring.

Martha, who became pregnant at a young age, is one of the girls who is currently being supported and she said: "I came to this centre to acquire the practical skills taught here and also learn English.

"After leaving, I plan to use what I have learned here as a stepping stone to what I want to become.

"I plan to pass on this knowledge skills to my siblings and other people so they can be like me. My dream is to be a teacher."

• *A teacher training session in Uganda*

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Avoid the stress of the January bargain hunt as Swindon's largest used car retailer has everything covered.

CarShop, situated on Penny Lane off Drakes Way, is fully equipped to cater for all of Swindon's buying, selling and servicing needs. Whilst many car dealerships are using gimmicks to stand out this January, CarShop's one-stop-shop approach promises to deliver the most competitive prices in the area, along with a great car buying experience.

Car Buying

Whether you prefer to shop in a physical retail environment where you can see, touch and test drive the product; or you're more at home shopping from the comfort of your home, CarShop has all the bases covered.

CarShop's giant store offers a welcoming environment where visitors can shop with ease in a pressure-free manner; be it in the traditional fashion of browsing all the vehicles in the showroom, or by taking advantage of the complementary wi-fi service to search the stock on carshop.co.uk via a mobile device.

For those who prefer more of a virtual experience, the retailer's award-winning website offers a range of features designed to make the user experience as simple and as helpful as possible. Perhaps more importantly, users also have the ability to place online reservations of vehicles.

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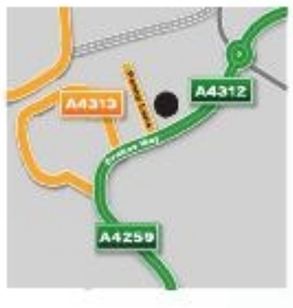

Green fingers

Advertising Feature

New year, new garden

Introducing innovative ideas on design into your garden

By **Hannah Stephenson**

IF YOU'VE had time over the festive season to leaf through those gardening book gifts, or to visit a public garden and walk off those Christmas excesses, you'll hopefully be awash with innovative ideas on designs to replicate in your own garden in the new year.

If you are redesigning an established garden, you can retain mature features, moving large shrubs and border plants to create an immediate effect. The proportion of plants and features to open space in the garden is all-important and the general rule is one-third planting to two-thirds space. You need that space to properly be able to see your garden and all its features.

Yet the garden can consist of many elements. Even a small garden could incorporate a mixture of different aspects, from lawn and paving to gravel, water and pebbles.

Vertical dimension will prevent an otherwise flat area from looking boring. In a large garden, for example, tall trees will take the eye upwards, while in a medium-sized garden pergolas, arches and arbours are useful devices.

Consider using a few bold focal points to draw the eye across the garden at an angle, which can help to overcome the shortcomings of a really tiny space. Drawing the eye to focal points elsewhere can also detract attention from an unattractive object or area, rather than attempting to screen it.

Too many plants end up cramped between fences and lawn in boring, straight borders which do nothing for the plants or the view. Think about introducing interesting curves to your borders to give them a more fluid feel.

The minimum width for a border should be around 1m (40in) and even with that, you'll be limited to dwarf shrubs and fairly small perennials.

You may think that planting the tallest plants at the back of the border and graduating until you have the smallest plants at the front is the best way to go, but there are certain plants you can use to break with tradition.

Height in the foreground, as long as it doesn't block the line of vision, increases perspective and can make the garden seem longer. For this you can use wispy grasses such as Stipa gigantea, or perennials that produce light flower spikes such as Digitalis lutea, or see-through specimens such as Verbena bonariensis, which don't block the view of what's behind them.

Of course, before any project can start, consider the type of gardener you are. Do you want a low-maintenance plot, or one you can endlessly potter in? How much time will you realistically be able to spend each week maintaining that space?

Draw up a plan either on a computer or with pencil and (preferably graph or squared) paper, to make an outline of the existing garden and its dimensions. Include existing features you want to keep and potential obstacles such as manhole covers which you'll need to work around. Mark the direction of the sun, where it falls at particular times of the day and any permanent shadow. Then put tracing paper over the original plan and sketch ideas of your own, experimenting with layout and plantings, bearing in mind what the vista will look like from the house, both downstairs and upstairs.

And don't make it too complicated. Remember clean lines and simple shapes will always work best - in design, less is often more.

• *A person making a plan of what to grow where in their garden. Picture credit: PA Photo/ Thinkstockphotos.*

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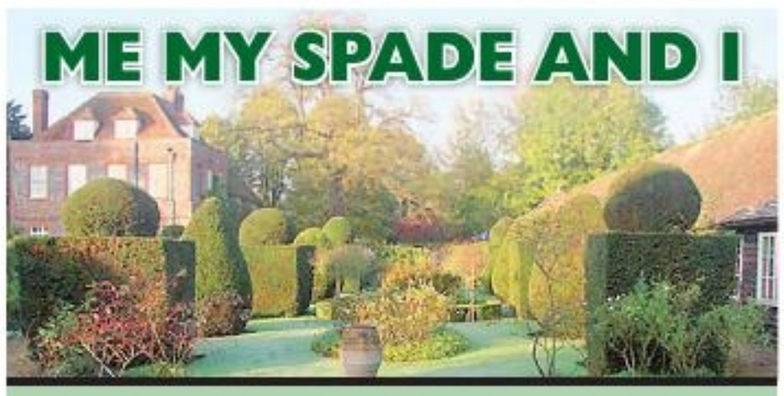

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News Bites

Have your say

THAMES Valley Police is holding various Have Your Say meetings in Didcot across the next few weeks.

Neighbourhood officers will be in attendance to discuss any local issues of concern.

The first meeting is this Friday outside Tesco on the Wallingford Road between 3pm and 4pm

There is also one at Taylor Wimpey Homes, Great Western Park, between 10am and 10.30am on January 13.

Officers will also be outside the Co-op on Lostock Place, Ladygrove, between 3.30pm and 4pm on January 17.

Station works

OXFORDSHIRE County Council has submitted an application to South Oxfordshire District Council to extend the works compound at Didcot Parkway Station.

The forecourt is currently being redeveloped and the county council wish to retain the temporary works compound at the site for a further two days until October 28.

SODC has registered the application and it is currently in a consultation period.

Youth hub opens in special launch

A PROJECT designed to provide accommodation, training and support for disadvantaged young people in Abingdon has celebrated its official relaunch.

The Abingdon Foyer is a three-building, 21-bed housing project that provides affordable and secure temporary accommodation for disadvantaged young people aged 16 to 25.

This includes those who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless in the community.

It is run by Raglan Housing, who joined with residents and local councillors to mark the official launch.

Callum Mustion, one of the Foyer residents, said: "This foyer is important to me because it really helped me get on my feet. Before I didn't really have anything; I didn't have anywhere to live. Now I have a job, I have somewhere to live and the staff here are really great, and they've supported me massively."

Raglan Housing owns and manages over 12,000 homes in England for some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

There are currently two other foyers in operation, located in Poole and Exeter, as well as a number of domestic abuse services for vulnerable women.

Sally Dyde, Raglan's head of sheltered and supported housing, said: "There is an acute shortage of safe and suitable temporary housing which can provide these people with a safe and supportive place to live.

"We want to ensure this foyer is as effective and beneficial to residents as possible, while they gain the skills they need to find employment and live on their own."

The accommodation scheme is open to young people aged 16 to 25 and facing homelessness.

To be accepted into a foyer, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to pursuing an agreed personal development plan, which is designed to help them gain employment.

To find out more, go to www.raglan.org.

• *Community members gather to celebrate Abingdon Foyer's official launch*

Teen put in hospital after park robbery

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy ended up in hospital after he was robbed of his wallet at the Hillview Recreational Ground in Banbury last Thursday evening.

At around 8.45pm, the victim and a 12-year-old boy were walking home through the park when two men started following the boys for a short distance.

One of the men then punched the victim in the face and demanded he emptied his pockets, with the boy giving him a wallet containing a small amount of cash. The offenders then ran off.

The victim attended Horton Hospital and was released the following day with soft tissue injuries to the left side of his face.

PC Bryn Smith, from Banbury police station, said: "This offence is cowardly and completely unprovoked. The offenders need to be identified swiftly as those men are responsible for hospitalising a 13-year-old.

"Hillview park is a popular place for dog walkers, joggers and children. There were other people in the park at the time of this robbery who must have witnessed this offence."

The first offender is white and wore a dark hooded top and dark trousers.

The second man was of mixed race and wore a dark hooded top with the hood up.

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Tax on tobacco 'could save 200 million lives'

MP gets tour around Headington home site

• (From left) Katy and Roger Buswell with John Howell MP

HENLEY MP John Howell has been speaking to residents of a park home site in Headington, to discuss the passing of the Mobile Homes Act last year.

Mr Howell visited Wick Farm Park where around 50 homes are based, and was shown around by Katy Buswell and her brother Roger, who own four residential parks in the Oxford area.

The act in question gives extra safeguards from a small number of rogue operators, such as those blocking property sales by residents, and people failing to carry out maintenance and not issuing written contracts.

"I was pleased to have the opportunity to look around the site, and to learn more about the different aspects of residential park management," said Mr Howell.

"It is important in this sector that there are adequate safeguards in place on all sides.

Katy said: "There is a positive community atmosphere on our parks, and a strong sense of neighbourliness which many mature couples say is missing from modern urban living."

She added that while for the majority the parks represent a dream retirement lifestyle, there are a few that are substandard, and the new legislation should play a role in combatting the issue.

AN OXFORD University researcher has said that tripling the tax on tobacco could prevent 200 million early deaths this century, in a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Professor Sir Richard Peto, along with Professor Prabhat Jha of the University of Toronto, believe that by greatly boosting the tax people would be encouraged to quit smoking altogether.

They added that it would be especially effective in low to middle-income countries, but also cited France's halving of cigarette consumption from 1990 to 2005 by raising taxes well above inflation.

Professor Peto said: "The two certainties in life are death and taxes. We want higher tobacco taxes and fewer tobacco deaths.

"It would help children not to start, and it would help many adults to stop while there's still time. Globally, about half of all young men and one in 10 of all young women become smokers and, particularly in developing countries, relatively few quit.

"If they keep smoking, about half will be killed by it, but if they

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

stop before 40, they'll reduce their risk of dying from tobacco by 90 per cent."

Dr Harpal Kumar, chief executive of Cancer Research UK, which funded some of Professor Peto's work, has urged governments worldwide to take action.

He said: "Worldwide, around half a billion children and adults under the age of 35 are already, or soon will be, smokers, and many will be hooked on tobacco for life.

"So there's an urgent need for governments to find ways to stop people starting and to help smokers give up.

"This immensely important study demonstrates that tobacco taxes are a hugely powerful lever in reducing the numbers of people who smoke and who die from their addiction.

"We urge all governments, not least the UK government, to take action by regularly raising tobacco taxes above inflation, and using occasional steep tax hikes starting with the next budget."

News Bites

Police appeal

POLICE are appealing for information after a phone and laptop were stolen from a property in Banbury during New Year celebrations. Between 11.20pm on December 31 and 3.30am on January 1, offenders forced entry into the bedroom of a house in Reid Close and stole a silver Nokia phone and silver HP laptop.

PC Bryn Smith said: "Reid Close is a busy cul-de-sac and there were a number of house parties going on at the time of the burglary."

Flood death is 'tragic'

A MAN from Oxford who was using a mobility scooter has died after falling in to Osney Lock when trying to use a flooded path.

The 47-year-old's body was recovered from the lock on January 4 and Thames Valley Police has since confirmed they are not treating his death as suspicious.

His death remains unexplained while his next of kin has been informed.

Supt Christian Bunt, LPA said: "This tragic incident highlights the dangers of using pathways which have flooded in areas including Oxford."

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News Bites

Tree theft

POLICE are investigating the theft of a chopped up tree felled by bad weather in Bear Wood, Witheridge Hill, near Highmoor.

The wood was taken between December 27 and January 2, after the owner of the section of Bear Wood had chopped up the tree on December 23.

PC Paul Hewitt from Henley police station said: "Although this is a rural area, the exact location where the wood was stolen from is next to a public right of way.

"This is popular with dog walkers and cyclists, especially over the holiday period. I think anyone seeing someone chopping up a tree with a chainsaw may have remembered."

Blaze death

A WOMAN in her 70s was found dead following a fire at a property in Woodstock in the early hours of Saturday morning.

At around 1.30am, police and fire crews attended the house in Green Lane to deal with the fire, before the woman's body was discovered later that morning.

The woman's next of kin has been informed, and early indications suggest that the circumstances of the fire are not suspicious.

Councils join forces in low emission zone plan

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OXFORD city centre has become a low emission zone (LEZ) in an effort to look after the local environment.

The joint city and county council plan was introduced on January 1 and is designed to improve air quality and reduce transport-related emissions in the centre of Oxford.

Buses' engines have been upgraded to meet EURO 5 standards for emissions while Oxford's LEZ is only the second to be introduced outside of London.

This has seen companies such as Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach, Thames Travel and National Express invest in improving their engine standards.

Cllr John Tanner, board member for a Cleaner, Greener Oxford, said: "Any bus company taking a bus through the centre of Oxford without at least a Euro 5 exhaust can lose its licence."

"Oxford City council will continue to press for improvements until Nitrogen Dioxide pollution is below 400 parts per million everywhere in the city."

Cabinet member for Environment at the county council Cllr David Nimmo Smith believes the LEZ compliments other transport initiatives within the city.

He said: "Oxford has some of the highest bus use in the UK, thanks to sustained investment by the councils and bus companies over several decades to create a first class bus and Park & Ride network. Buses are vital to Oxford's economy and environment so I'm delighted to see the LEZ coming into effect to make the city's buses even cleaner."

However, the county's Green group believe the LEZ needs to be extended to cover all vehicles.

Green group leader Craig Simmons said: "This Low Emission Zone has been a long time coming but shows that our consistent campaigning on air quality has paid off.

"A LEZ is long overdue. Air quality is continuing to deteriorate in the city centre.

"Our concern is that the limited measures proposed will have a minimal effect.

"There needs to be a clear plan to extend the LEZ to cover all polluting vehicles."

Youngsters to get teaser sport sessions

A PROGRAMME for young people aged 15 to 21 to take part in a range of sporting activities has been launched by Oxford City Council.

Oxford Youth Ambition sees a number of sports sessions led by a qualified coach being held in Barton, Blackbird Leys, Cutteslowe and Rose Hill, to encourage youngsters to keep active.

Activities on offer include dodgeball, netball, table tennis, boxercise, dance, football and basketball, with more sports being made available on demand.

Cllr Steve Curran, board member for youth and communities, said: "There are plenty of activities that young people can try out at these sessions.

"They are fun, affordable and it allows them to see if they enjoy the sport before committing more time towards it."

While taking part in the sessions, participants can earn Bounts reward points just for turning up, and can be redeemed against a number of rewards including shopping vouchers and days out.

A full list of sessions can be found on the city council website www.oxford.gov.uk, or via the sports development team on 01865 252729.

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Hartwell Plc is thrilled to announce increased interest in their Hartwell Abingdon branch after it was given the honour of being Ford's first Transit Centre in the UK in October. Ford will open 100 specific commercial van centres across the country offering extended opening hours and elevated service standards, but Hartwell Abingdon is the very first.

Ian Wilmore, General Manager at Hartwell Abingdon said: "We are feeling positive as we go into the New Year, enquiries are up and this is only going to improve as Ford introduces new commercial models in the coming months. Hartwell is leading the way and the standards for the Ford Transit Centres across the country."

Abingdon's Transit Centre has an experienced and dedicated team of commercial vehicles sale executives and technicians. The Centres are designed to provide a cutting edge environment for Ford's next generation of vans as well as introducing Ford's Transit24 aftersales programme, which aims to minimise vehicle downtime and reducing the running cost throughout the van's lifetime.

Kevin Godfrey, Hartwell managing director, said: "The launch of our new Transit Centre in Abingdon is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the excellent new range of commercial vehicles from Ford and further improve the level of care for our customers."

In 2014, Ford will overhaul their range of commercial vehicles with four new models, the Transit Courier, the Transit Connect, Transit Custom and Transit, all being introduced.

For more information about the impressive range of vans for sale and contract hire at Hartwell, visit www.hartwell.co.uk/vans

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Hunt on after New Year glass assault

A 24-year-old man was chased down the street and punched in the face in Banbury on New Year's Day.

The victim was walking in West Street in the direction of Middleton Road at about 8.15am when he was chased by a man.

He fell over and the offender, who had glass in his hand, punched the aggrieved in the face a number of times.

The victim was treated for cuts and a puncture to his face at Horton General Hospital.

The offender is white, with light mousey-coloured hair, clean shaven and wearing a tracksuit and dark jacket.

Investigating officer, PC Matthew Oaten said: "The incident occurred in a residential street, so I would appeal to anyone who may have witnessed the assault to contact police.

"I would also urge those members of the public who stopped to help the victim to contact the police."

If you have any information about the incident call 101.

Do you have an Oxford story?

Contact James
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk
or on **01235 516931**

Rallying round for wounded soldiers

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A FARINGDON man who has served in the British Army is taking on a different type of challenge this month as he joins a group of severely injured soldiers in the Dakar Rally.

Chris Astles, who serves in the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers, is a member of the race support crew and played a vital role when the Race2Recovery team entered for the first time last year.

Made up of 16 injured soldiers and civilian volunteers, the team has entered two race vehicles into this year's Dakar Rally, based in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.

Last year Race2Recovery became the first disability team to compete in and complete the race. They are now four days into this year's challenge.

Before heading out to South America, the 35-year-old spoke of his delight about being part of the team for a second time.

He said: "Being part of the team last year was an incredible experience and I'm delighted that, after helping the team throughout the year, I'm able to be part of the support crew for the 2014 Dakar.

"Race2Recovery has proved an inspiration for a lot of people and the injured members of the team have done a huge amount to show that injury, whether sustained in combat or in civilian life, doesn't have to hold you back from achieving something amazing."

The team will also enter the new Defender Challenge series that will launch in the UK in the spring.

He added: "That gives us a great platform to further educate ourselves as a race team and to bring in and train up new recruits. Plus, it allows us to race in front of UK crowds, which is something we love doing as they have been so supportive of the team.

Race2Recovery, which operates to the motto 'beyond injury, achieving the extraordinary', has raised over £250,000 for Tedworth House Personnel Recovery Centre and Help for Heroes. This year it is also raising awareness of military charity Blesma which supports disabled servicemen, women, their dependants and widows.

• Chris Astles. Inset, the rest of the team.

News Bites

Pub burgled

A laptop, charity boxes, alcohol and jukebox have been stolen from a Faringdon pub.

The Folly Inn on London Street was broken in to between 4.30am and 5.30am on December 31.

Anyone with information should call 101 and ask for Det Con Chris Leech.

A dog's life

WEST Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to get their dog microchipped free of charge.

Appointments will be on selected dates during January and February at WFS Country Shop in Witney and Countrywide in Chipping Norton.

Advance booking is essential and can be made at www.westoxon.gov.uk/dogs or by calling 01993 861020.

Club robbery

POLICE are appealing for information after offenders forced entry into a South Oxfordshire social club and stole money from the premises.

The incident took place at the Stanford in the Vale Social Club on Sheads Lane between 11pm on New Year's Day and 10am on January 2, with offenders gaining access by forcing open a fire door.

Have you or a family member ever served in the forces?

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Fraud calls prompt cop response

THAMES Valley Police is currently investigating a series of fraudulent calls.

There have been reports of phone calls being made to residents across the region from people claiming to be police officers.

An 'officer' will tell the victim their bank account has been involved in fraudulent activity and asks them for their details or PIN number.

"We are in the early stages of investigating these claims," said Det Supt Paul Hayles.

"I want to remind people that the police will never ask for your bank details in this way, and nor will your bank.

"Never give personal or account details to anyone who contacts you unexpectedly.

"Be suspicious, even if they claim to be from your bank or the police."

If you have any concerns call the police's non-emergency number 101.

Alternatively, get in touch with Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555111, or go online by visiting www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

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facebook.com/OxfordshireGuardian

Residents sign up to save stadium

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A DECISION as to whether Oxford Stadium should be demolished and redeveloped as housing was expected to be rejected last night by the city council.

It comes after Oxford East MP Andrew Smith and Save Oxford Stadium chairman Ian Sawyer presented a petition with over 2,000 signatures to save the stadium to council leaders Bob Price and Ed Turner last week.

Mr Smith said: "There is overwhelming opposition, both from local residents and stadium supporters across the county, to this planning application.

"People really value the stadium activities and facilities and want to see it fully re-open.

"There is huge public support for getting back speedway and greyhound racing as well as keeping the dance, karting and other activities on site.

"This is a vital facility, not just for Oxford but the whole county, and we are determined to save it. It is good news that there is serious business interest in buying the site and operating it as a stadium."

• *Andrew Smith MP presents the petition to Cllrs Bob Price (centre) and Ed Turner (left)*

Oxford Stadium has been closed as a greyhound track since December 29, 2012, with speedway not having been run at the site since 2008.

This proposal was for 220 residential units to be built on the site, but a council report recommended refusal on the basis that community facilities would be lost.

It was also concerned about the lack of the full provision of affordable housing and potential poor living conditions for future occupants.

Cllr Price said: "The city council's local plan clearly identifies this site for leisure, and there is huge support for the retention of greyhound and speedway racing in Oxford. This is together with the other popular activities that are housed in the stadium – dance, karting and motorcycle training all have strong support.

"We know that there are several promoters who are willing to take over the stadium and run it with all these activities.

"It is disappointing that the Greyhound Racing Association is failing to promote and develop the sport that it represents."

A spokesperson for Galliard Homes, who put forward the proposed development, refused to comment further on the matter.

South Oxon 'set for 2.5 per cent tax reduction'

SOUTH Oxfordshire District Council have unveiled plans to reduce council tax by 2.5 per cent when it sets its budget for 2014/15 in February.

This will mean that rates have fallen for the last three years in a row in the district, resulting in South Oxfordshire's charge dropping into the lowest 10 in the country.

Council leader Ann Ducker said: "Our mantra here is the best possible services at the lowest possible cost.

"To deliver this we constantly look for ways to improve efficiency, cut out waste and increase income.

"I think that we run this more like a business than a local authority and staff and councillors have bought into this approach.

"We are not immune from the spending pressures affecting local government but I know I'd rather be talking about the various investment programmes we have than which services we have no choice but to cut.

"There is too much money wasted in local government and others could do worse than learn from our example.

"We have very high levels of resident satisfaction and take very seriously our responsibilities towards those who are less fortunate."

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Cash Price	£7,246	Excess Mileage Charge	6p Per Mile
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4.9% APR Representative

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Ford Options Representative Example:
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Customer Deposit	£2,922.09	Facility Fee	£10
Deposit Allowance	£1,950	Purchase Fee	£10
Cash Price	£16,853.03	Excess Mileage Charge	6p Per Mile
Total Charge for Credit	£841.06	Duration of Agreement	25 Months
Optional Final Payment/GMFV	£8,040	Borrowing rate fixed APR Representative	3.51% 4.2%

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Entertainment

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Tributes to iconic trio

AN EVENING of rock and roll featuring tribute acts to three of big names in music comes to the Oxford New Theatre, with Three Steps to Heaven being performed tonight and tomorrow.

Classic songs from Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison and Buddy Holly, in homage to what would have been billed the greatest rock and roll show ever staged if it had taken place.

Stephen Kabakos stars as Elvis at the New Theatre, in what is his UK debut after 16 years of performing as the King.

"What's great about this show is that it's three iconic rock and roll superstars that pretty much are the legends that started it off," said Stephen. "It can't get too much better than that music-wise."

Speaking about what he enjoyed most about Elvis' music, Stephen said: "There was just something raw about it, his music changed so much.

"With most artists, besides the Rolling Stones, there's not that many that have spanned that many generations.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

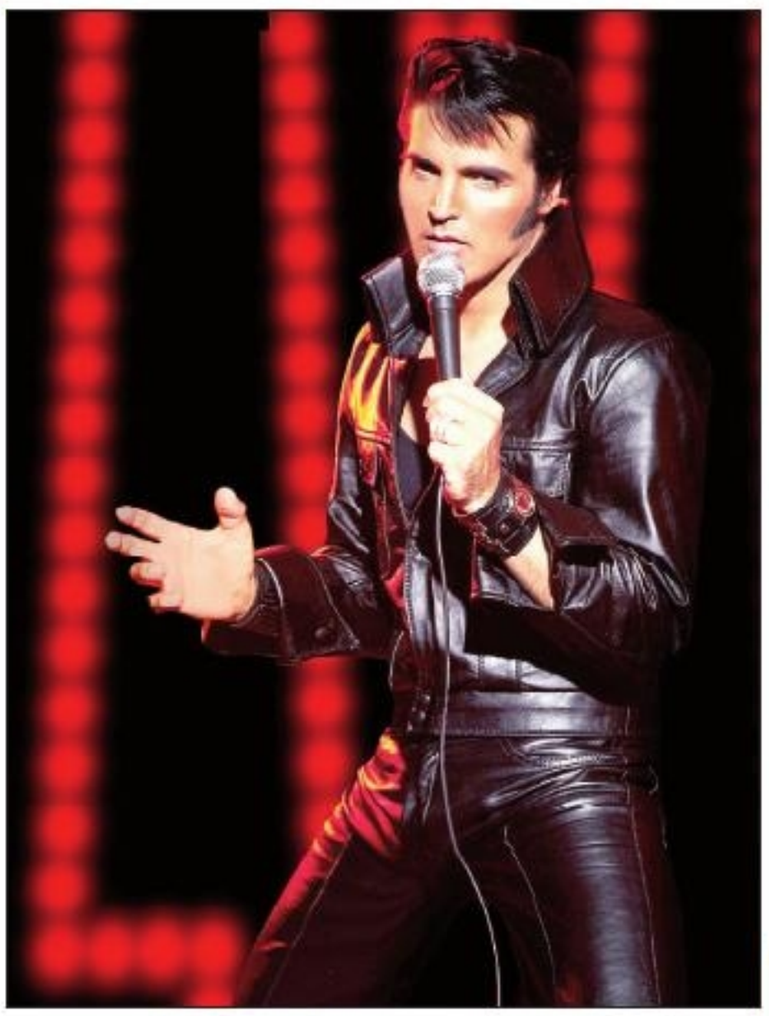
"Elvis wasn't here that long, however he did span the fifties, the sixties and even the seventies, and in each era his music changed.

"He started off this crazy hip-swinging rebel, and in the sixties he became more of the crooner playing a little bit more of the romantic side of things, such as the songs 'Surrender and 'It's Now or Never'.

"Towards the end of the sixties he started to get his raw edge back, and then in the seventies exploded into this man who he was on stage – Elvis in concert.

"You can't really get tired of his music because it's always different, and I guess you could say I really do enjoy performing them all."

Three shows are being performed today and tomorrow, and tickets cost £28.90. For show times and booking details, phone 0844 871 3020 or go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk.



• *Stephen Kabakos stars as Elvis in his first ever performance in the UK*

Lots of drama

OXFORD'S Burton Taylor Studio has four separate events lined up over the next seven days, focussing on drama and new writing.

Fiji Land is running from now until Saturday, and is a surreal play about the things that happen when prison doors shut and what happens inside is hidden from the world.

It is the work of award-winning playwright Nick Gill.

Chris Sivewright's play School Assembly will be staged on Monday, as teachers debate the possibility of an evil act, and the discussion gets nasty.

Another of Chris's shows is shown on Tuesday, with Transformation telling the story of a young girl who tries to resolve her grandfather's limited outlook on life and transform his perceptions.

And on Wednesday, the drama comedy Goodbye Günther plays with people's fears and taboos surrounding death, as the optimistic protagonist rehearses the end of his life using slapstick.

Further details can be found at www.oxfordplayhouse.com or by calling 01865 305305.

More panto!

POPULAR pantomime Aladdin is coming to Banbury from tomorrow evening, with 16 performances scheduled until January 19.

The show sees a diverse cast dressed in elaborate costumes, with detailed sets and all the traditional pantomime ingredients, presented by the Cherwell Theatre Company.

Tickets cost £10, and a family ticket for four is available for £32. To book or to check show times, go to www.themillartscentre.co.uk or phone 01295 297002.

Unicorn folk!

AN EVENING of folk music is coming to Abingdon's Unicorn Theatre tonight, as The Hut People perform their engaging and often hilarious show featuring songs from around the world.

The duo are popular with audiences around the UK, and will be performing with their trademark mix of accordion and Quebecois percussion and dance.

Doors open at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £10. Further information can be found at www.abingdonabbey-unicorntheatre.org.uk.

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Entertainment

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Sons looking to the future

HARD rock group Sons of Icarus make their Oxford debut on Saturday with Rock Lives, a show at the O2 Academy which sees them collaborating with Fighting Wolves and Piston.

In their first show of 2014, Sons of Icarus will be playing songs from their upcoming debut album ahead of a full UK tour next month.

It hasn't been an easy time for the group after problems with a record label have delayed the release of the album, but the band is now planning on financing it themselves.

Steve Balkwill, guitarist with the group, said: "It's been really frustrating as we recorded the album in August 2012, and it's been on my iPod for a year and a half now.

"It's annoying because the only song people have heard from it is the single 'Let it Burn', but we just need to get some artwork sorted and we're going to try and fund it ourselves and put it out as soon as possible."

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Saturday's show sees the band team up with Fighting Wolves in preparation for their joint tour, and will also be the first time the two groups have met in person.

"We've been aware of them and they've got some cool tunes," Steve added. "They came to us with the idea of a tour and we thought it sounded fun, and we've got some great material to put together for these shows.

"It should be a nice warm-up and getting to know the guys, and we've got Piston on the bill as well who we met at a festival a few weeks ago, so it should be a good night of rock."

Entry costs £8, and doors open at 7pm. For more details, call the box office on 0844 477 2000 or go to their website: www.o2academyoxford.co.uk.

Find us on Twitter @OxfordGuardian

• *Steve Balkwill (far left) and Sons of Icarus make their Oxford debut on Saturday*

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Ford Options Representative Example. Ford **FIESTA ZETEC 3dr 1.25 82PS**

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25 January, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Gemma Moss
21.30 Barry & The Beachcombers
22.15 Molotiv Sexbomb
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/250112
www.gappytooth.com

25 January,
Royal Oak Pub, Woodstock Road, Oxford
PLAYHOUSE PLAYS OUT: BURNS NIGHT
Packed with poems and music, this promises to be a joyous celebration of one of Scotland,'s great poets. A traditional two-course haggis lunch or dinner is also included in the ticket price.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

25 January, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
NOBODY RIDES THE UNICORN
The greedy King and cunning Doctor trick a young girl into capturing the Unicorn. Zoe must set the Unicorn free. But will she be putting herself in danger? Puppets, original live music and moments of unexpected magic, blend together to tell this tale, based on Adrian Mitchell,'s modern classic. www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

27 January - 1 February,
Oxford Playhouse
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG
Tickets: £11 to £26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

29 January, 7:30pm
St Margaret's Church, Oxford
MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
Tickets £12.50/ £10.50 from www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/
http://www.casa-margarita.co.uk/

31 January, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
BERNARD D'ASCOLI (PIANO)
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

31 January, 5pm
Oxford Playhouse
ALAN AYCKBOURN
Tickets: £9 discounts £7
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

1 February, 7:29pm - 11pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
MASH MARATHON
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

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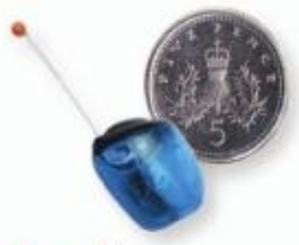

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

		8	6			1		5
9			8		2	7		
6		4	7	9			2	
	7			8	5		4	1
	4	9				5	3	
	1		9	4			8	
				1	8	4		9
		2	5		3			6
1		5			9	2		

5								8
6	3						2	9
	9		2		7		4	
		4	7	5	3	2		
		5	8	6	1	9		
	1		4		9		6	
3	2						8	1
4								2

2							3	8
		6		1				9
					7		6	
		8		6		2		
			7		5			
		5		3		4		
	7		5					
9				2		6		
3	8							1

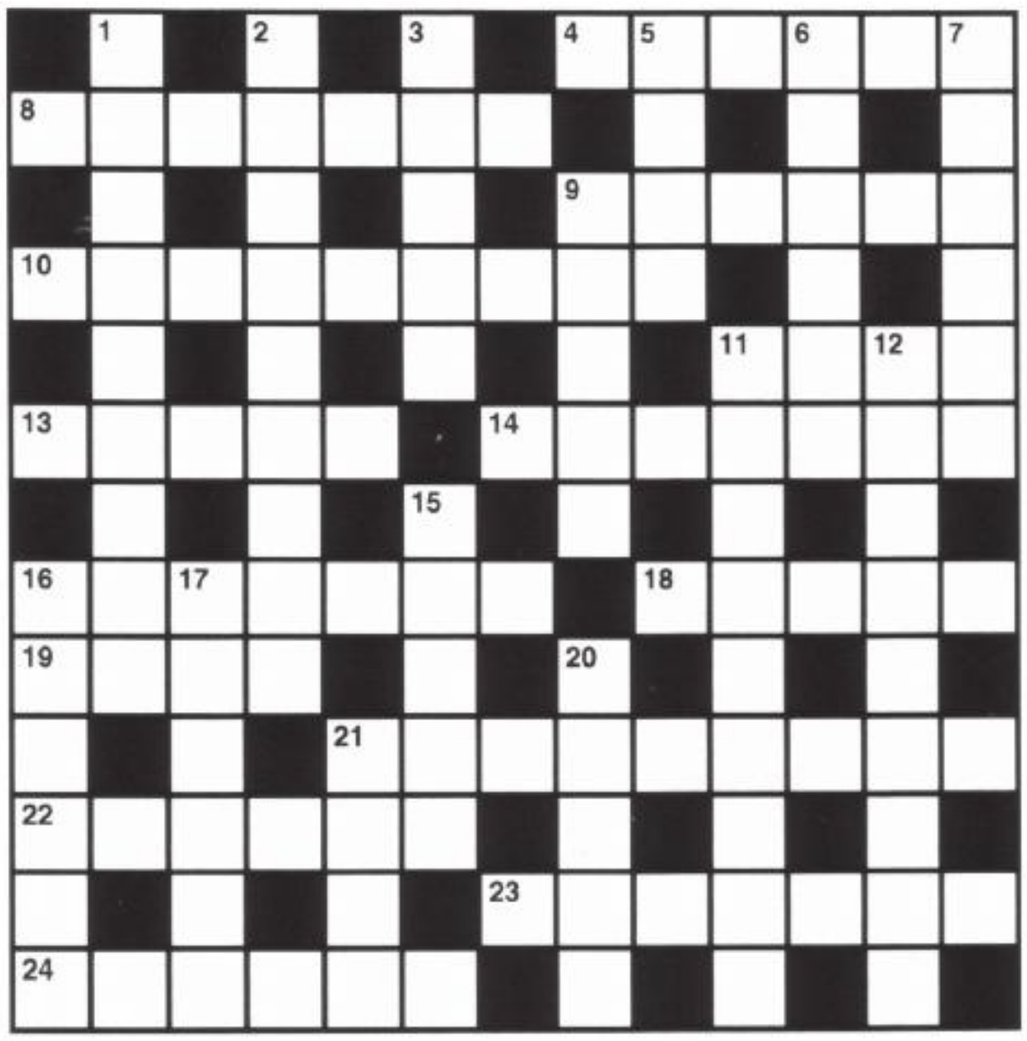
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
4 Crustacean (6)
8 Religious buildings (7)
9 Discover the position of (6)
10 Vessel for conveying passengers and vehicles (5,4)
11 Disorder (4)
13 Halts (5)
14 Swift retort (7)
16 Be gluttonous (7)
18 Goods (5)
19 Unwoven fabric (4)
21 Indispensable (9)
22 Kind of chicory (6)
23 Began (7)
24 Short track for shunting (6)

Quick Clues Down
1 Misleading (9)
2 Part for replacement in machinery (5,4)
3 Medicinal plants (5)
5 Shout derisively (4)
6 Representations (6)
7 Gratify (6)
9 Classical language (5)
11 Religious house (9)
12 Became dull (9)
15 Lift (5)
16 Proposals (6)
17 Baffled (6)
20 Relaxes (5)
21 Flat (4)
22 After due or usual time (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
4 Change the hair piece (6)
8 Told of formerly being in the red (7)
9 The cure is a change of a holiday (6)
10 Somehow I also turn it on as being separate (9)
11 The Republicans hold part of this place (4)
13 Wounds the sailor in the streets (5)
14 Confused at finding birds in part of the garden (7)
16 Mean to put Vera in a time bracket (7)
18 Could nothing be so changed among the reeds? (5)
19 Begin to direct (4)
21 Meet and go in to find a conscientious objector to the UN inside (9)
22 Group which is more than healthy (6)
23 Take away from the retiring editor's paper (7)
24 Herbs for sound occasions (6)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 Is the visit seen to show feeling? (9)
2 Ore who sacrifices sleep to capture a contemptible creature (5,4)
3 The department has an hour to make the distance (5)
5 Give notice of a battle to the north (4)
6 Tries to absorb secondrate groups (6)
7 Having the money to visit the cobbler? (6)
9 Centres of sound reason (5)
11 But surely it's the wife who shows careful domestic management? (9)
12 Adoring bow (9)
15 Spy factor (5)
16 Very nearly to slam out (6)
17 Heed your fundamental quality (6)
20 Is there a large number over its white cliffs? (5)
21 A great lake turns to Ireland (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

9	3	4	5	6	1	8	2	7
6	2	8	9	3	7	4	1	5
1	7	5	8	2	4	6	9	3
2	9	3	1	5	8	7	6	4
7	5	1	2	4	6	3	8	9
4	8	6	7	9	3	1	5	2
5	1	7	4	8	9	2	3	6
3	4	2	6	1	5	9	7	8
8	6	9	3	7	2	5	4	1

2	5	4	1	9	8	6	3	7
9	1	7	5	3	6	8	2	4
6	3	8	2	4	7	9	1	5
4	9	1	7	6	5	3	8	2
8	7	6	3	2	1	5	4	9
5	2	3	9	8	4	7	6	1
3	4	9	8	7	2	1	5	6
1	8	2	6	5	9	4	7	3
7	6	5	4	1	3	2	9	8

6	2	5	7	1	3	8	4	9
9	4	3	6	2	8	1	7	5
8	1	7	9	4	5	2	6	3
3	7	4	5	8	2	6	9	1
2	8	1	3	9	6	7	5	4
5	9	6	1	7	4	3	8	2
7	5	2	4	6	1	9	3	8
4	6	8	2	3	9	5	1	7
1	3	9	8	5	7	4	2	6

Quick Crossword
Across: 1 Symbolic 4 Apes 8 Inroad 10 Banana 11 Queen 12 Revue 14 Aerial 17 Reelected 18 Vanishing 22 Smiles 23 Essay 24 Steal 26 Splits 27 Damask 28 Sate 29 Handlers
Down: 1 Spin 2 Murder 3 Opaque 5 Placid 6 Smallest 7 Manet 9 Duellists 10 Beachhead 13 Venal 15 Reins 16 Persists 18 Violet 19 Nests 20 Island 21 Garage 25 Skis

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 1 Officers 4 Keep 8 Ballad 10 Rescue 11 Sited 12 Fires 14 Castle 17 Perchance 18 Recoiling 22 Abacus 23 Inter 24 Beans 26 Nailed 27 George 28 Yule 29 Ebb tides
Down: 1 Orbs 2 Filip 3 Chaser 5 Excite 6 Presence 7 Sedan 9 Disclosed10 Recalling 13 Rebec 15 Scant 16 Ungainly 18 Radial 19 Cubes 20 Insect 21 Geared 25 Bets

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Horoscopes

By Cassandra Nye

Your life in the stars

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)
Something creative should be giving you great satisfaction now. Did you sign up for that course or enrol friends in a mutual hobby? There is still time to get going on your own or with others. Sharing will be important to you this week and it does not have to be with just one person. Look after your health and your energy will increase.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)
With so much going on around you, it may seem enough to sit back and be a spectator for a change. Certainly there is something to learn from just watching others. Even so, get active physically and mentally to feel the health benefits. Need to have some checks? Get them done. Need to sort out your finances? This is a great week to do that too.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)
You have more power to influence your future than you realise. Be inspired to chase a dream even if others try to bring you down. What harm is there in trying? Small successes spur you on, and with good reason. If you feel that your talents are not good enough, then top them up with a bit of part-time learning. Books or courses, maybe?

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)
Now you can really feel that a fresh start is here. Determined to tackle those niggling problems, it is a week to feel empowered. The new enthusiasm that you are showing has a way of filtering through to those around you. A surprising side effect of this is that family and colleagues are more than willing to assist in your endeavours. This can quickly help to bring you closer together.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)
A mad rush to get everything done at once calms down a little this week. It is likely that things are moving so fast in some areas of your life that you seek to slow them down. There is no need for a lot of drama in the home. All you have to do is ask for what you want. Why expect resistance when there is every chance of a smooth way forward? Relax and show a sunny side.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
In the hurly burly of the new year, take the time to stop occasionally and see where you are going. Keeping your goals in mind, whatever else you are doing, is essential. Opportunities come at short notice this week, so be prepared. Any thoughts of a quiet weekend could be scuppered when someone from the recent past arrives. Being flexible really is an asset now!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Be active and enthusiastic in whatever way suits your present situation. Even those who seek romance should not be put off if a love interest is unavailable. Because someone is busy it does not mean that they do not want to be by your side. This week it is all a matter of timing. Having made an effort to please others, it is now time to do a few things to please yourself!

LEO (July 24 - August 23)
Being where you want to be and with the people that you care for is still your priority. Whatever else is going on, relaxation should be high on the list. Trying to get too much done too quickly could leave you tired and disappointed. It is best not to aim too high in what is not a high-energy week. Satisfaction is high as the words someone said over the holiday cheers your day.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)
Going with the flow this week brings some delightful surprises. Try not to over-organise others. Let them be themselves, warts and all. Not everything is pleasing you at the moment, but don't worry about it. Time has a funny way of sorting out most problems if you give it a chance. When someone needs advice, try looking at it from a new perspective.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)
Stay sweet-tempered this week by not taking too much on. Progress is good all round as long as you keep a sharp eye open. If plans start going in the wrong direction, tweak them a little. If you are in a party mood and no one is inviting you, why not throw one yourself? It does not have to be at home, maybe a convenient local venue? Pie and mash in the pub anyone?

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)
Feeling a little jaded after the holiday? Now is the time to look forward to the next holiday! Trying something different gives a sense of adventure. It does not have to be expensive, just different. Seek the company of happy and optimistic people and leave the moaners to themselves. An act of kindness from you at the weekend means a lot to someone.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)
Gather friends and family around you and communicate your feelings and plans. Some of them will want to help and others may offer advice. Satisfaction, at the moment, comes with a sense of community. Remember that humour has a big part to play in being happy. Tell a few jokes to get people chuckling and just see how the mood spreads!

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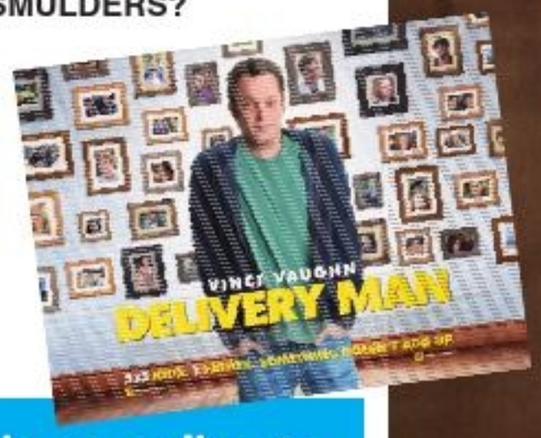

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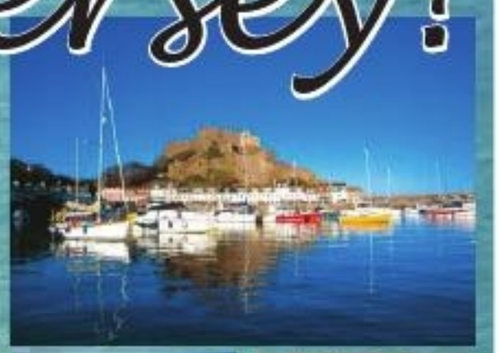

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AUTOWEEKLY

'A great value package'

REVIEW: HYUNDAI IX35

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

THE compact SUV/crossover class has become one of the most hotly contested in the automotive sector, so perhaps it's no surprise that Hyundai has refreshed its ix35 only 3 years after it first launched.

Visually the revised ix35 cuts quite a dash, with the same tall stance. At the front there's a prominent front grille, and swept back headlights; while new LED daytime running lights and reworked rear lamps complete the ix35's a striking visual appearance.

All cars get a 5-star Euro NCAP safety rating; 6 airbags, a suite of electronic stability systems and ISOfix standard child seat anchors. SE Nav and above gets a 7" Touchscreen Satellite Navigation Featuring Full Postcode Recognition, TMC, Reversing Camera and Premium 7 Speaker Sound System.

The new ix35 retains the 1.6-litre GDi petrol and 1.7-litre and 2.0-litre CRDi engines, but adds a six-speed automatic transmission option on the 2.0-litre 136PS 4WD model.

Aside from styling, the ix35 also gets tweaked suspension settings to improve ride comfort and driving dynamics. The changes have brought about noticeable improvement in both areas. Good visibility and light steering also make town driving and parking a painless process. Stepping inside the ix35's cabin reveals it to be largely unchanged. You're greeted by the same visually appealing and ergonomically well-designed dashboard layout, with a well-positioned and easy-to-use infotainment system.

Everything feels well screwed together, with a decent ergonomic layout, but unfortunately the interior doesn't quite have the polish of some rivals, such as Honda CR-V and VW Tiguan.

It's easy to get comfortable thanks to plenty of adjustment in the steering column and a well-aligned driving position.

The ix35 makes a good family car, with lots of head- and leg-room throughout and storage levels are pretty decent, too, with central cubbies, four large cup holders and space to stow items around the gear lever. Although its boot opening isn't as wide as that in either a Mazda CX-5 or a Honda CR-V, the boot floor is flat and there's an admirable 591 litres of boot space, which extends to 1,436 litres with the 60/40 split rear seats folded.

Verdict:

Although it still might not quite have the polish of the class leaders, Hyundai's new ix35 builds on the previous model's strengths, offering buyers in the market for a compact SUV an attractively styled, competent and great value package.

• *The new Hyundai ix35*

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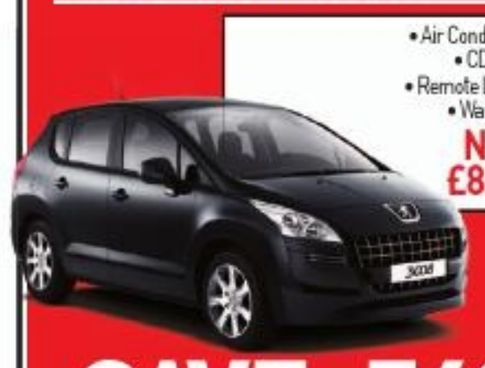

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10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise, 5 airbags, alloys, r/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low miles 15,000, FSH

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11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreen, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles **£10,395**

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10 10 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI DIESEL TITANIUM, 5dr, hot magenta special met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, cruise, r/CD, climate, 5 airbags, ABS, ESP, PAS, auto lights & wipers, HFS, front fogs, Blue tooth hands free, rear park sensors, 2 owners from new, FSH, RFL £20 per year, 35,600 miles

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13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800, RFL £30 per year

£12,995

11 60 SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI PETROL SE STATION WAGON, 5dr, silver met/grey, 6 spd, low mileage, service history, 12,000 miles

£11,995

03 53 PEUGEOT 307CC COUPE, black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, climate control, PAS, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, rear park sensors, ESP, very low mileage 34,048 miles, 2 owners from new, FSH

£3,995

11 61 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, JULIANS SUPPLIED, ONE OWNER FROM NEW, 20,629 miles

£5,595

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles

£11,995

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles

£8,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles

£6,995

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH

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10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles

£8,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655

£8,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

11 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD 3 DR, White/ gloss black roof & grey trim, 5 spd, Black Alloys, Tailgate spoiler, Elec/ windows & mirrors, radio cd, power steering, air con, 2 airbags, ABS, 39968,

£7,995

13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 2000 miles, DUE IN SOON

£13,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles

£14,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles

£4,995

MINIMUM £1000 PART EXCHANGE

10 60 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, climate con, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, front fogs, low mileage, 2 owners from new, 26,725 miles, FSH . . . . . MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£7,295**

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles . . . . . MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£4,995**

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655 miles . . . . . MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£8,995**

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles. . . . . MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£6,995**

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated screen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles . . . . . MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£8,995**

10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated windscreen, climate control, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, front & rear park sensors, PAS, 7 a/b, auto lights & wipers, Blue tooth, service history, one owner from new, 35,814 miles . . . . . MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£9,495**

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles . . . . . MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£14,995**

11 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD 3 DR, White with gloss black roof & grey trim, 5 spd, Black Alloys, Tailgate spoiler, E/w & m, R/CD, PAS, Air Con, 2 Airbags, ABS, 39,968, ONE OWNER FROM NEW, S/HISTORY. MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR **£7,995**

FIESTA

10 10 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI DIESEL TITANIUM, 5dr, hot magenta special met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, cruise, r/CD, climate, 5 airbags, ABS, ESP, PAS, auto lights & wipers, HFS, front fogs, Blue tooth hands free, rear park sensors, 2 owners from new, FSH, RFL £20 per year, 35,600 miles **£8,995**

10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise control, 5 airbags, alloys, radio/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low mileage 15,000 miles, FSH. **£9,591**

FOCUS

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC AUTO, 5dr, panther black met/grey, e/w&m, 6 spd auto, air con, Blue tooth, alloys heated screen, front fogs, DAB radio & CD, one owner from new, very low mileage 9,313 miles. **£11,595**

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreen, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles **£10,395**

08 08 FOCUS 1.8 PETROL 125PS STYLE, 5dr, panther black/grey, c/l, r/CD, e/w&m, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, 2 owners from new, service history, 53,446 miles. **£5,595**

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles **£11,995**

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles. **£8,995**

10 10 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM, 5dr, chilli met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, a/c, HFS, auto h'lights & wipers, PAS, power start button, key less entry, DAB r/CD, rear park sensors, cruise, heated seats, 6 airbags, ABS, one owner, FSH, low mileage 23,758 . . . . . **£8,995**

13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 2,500 miles, DUE IN SOON. **£13,995**

11 11 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 115PS ZETEC, 3dr, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth USB, air con, ABS, ESP, front fogs, HFS, r/CD, alloys, one owner, FSH, 5 months manufacturer's warranty, very low mileage 20,000 miles, DUE IN SOON **£9,595**

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11 11 GRAND C MAX 1.6 TDCI 116PS TITANIUM 7 SEAT DIESEL, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, climate control, Blue tooth connectivity, 8,332 miles **£13,995**

12 12 S MAX 1.6T ECOBOOST 160PS TITANIUM, panther black met/grey, 6spd, e/w&m, r/CD, c/l, Blue tooth connectivity, HFS, climate, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, cruise, PAS, one owner, full service history, very low mileage 6,200 miles. . . **£16,595**

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH **£12,595**

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800 miles, RFL £30 per year. **£12,995**

KA

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, flame red/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty. **£7,995**

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty **£8,195**

11 61 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, JULIANS SUPPLIED, ONE OWNER FROM NEW, 20,629 miles. **£5,595**

OTHER MAKES

04 04 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.2 PETROL, 5dr, silver met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, a/c, 2 airbgs, ABS, 2 owners from new, service history, 59,565 miles. **£2,595**

07 07 MAZDA 3 SPORT D 2.0 DIESEL 143PS 5DR HATCH, black mica/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6CD player, PAS, climate, front fogs, 8 airbags, ABS, ESP, service history, 61,414 miles **£5,395**

11 60 SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI PETROL SE STATION WAGON, 5dr, silver met/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6CD, PAS, climate control, front fogs, 8 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front and rear parking sensors, park assist, roof rails, one owner from new, very low mileage, SH, 12,000 miles **£11,995**

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THIS MATCH IS HUGE FOR US - ZOLDAN

U's boss relishing Newbury clash

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

ABINGDON United manager Andy Zoldan is hoping this Saturday's match at home to Newbury beats the weather as his side look to continue their improved form.

United have taken six points from their last three games and could move out of the bottom two for the first time this season if they beat 18th-placed Newbury at the Northcourt this weekend.

The Berkshire club are only ahead of United in the Hellenic Premier Division on goal difference and Zoldan sees Saturday's match as a six-pointer.

"It is the old cliché of a six-pointer already this early in the season," he said.

"We've got six points out of the last three games so this is massive.

"It is a game that we will go in to with full of confidence that we can get three points but I am sure Newbury are exactly the same."

United have been using the astro-turf pitches at Tilsley Park during the wet weather and Zoldan is hopeful the game will go ahead.

"Fingers crossed," he said. "Our pitch does drain pretty well and it is in good condition but it all depends on how much more rain we get it.

"I'm very optimistic for it to be on but it wouldn't shock me if it was not."

Zoldan has added midfielders Kevin Rookes and Murray Nicholls to his squad, an area he has been keen to strengthen since taking over at the beginning of December.

"I looked at the team and defensively there wasn't much I needed to do," he said.

"We could defend as a team but we couldn't create much going forward so the midfield area has been my main focus.

"I'm still not finished. I'd still like another centre forward if possible but there is not many free agents about at the moment."

Zoldan has also been quick to praise the younger members of the squad who were signed by previous manager Paul Noble.

"They have been a breath of fresh air," he added.

"Especially the young boys because they can decide to disappear and not work hard and not compete but the ones that have stayed have knuckled down and risen to the challenge."

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• *Kieran Cochrane is one of the younger players who has impressed Andy Zoldan (Picture by Chris Janes)*

U's set for Pompey showdown

OXFORD United return to league action this weekend, welcoming strugglers Portsmouth to the Kassam Stadium.

United's FA Cup third round tie at Championship side Charlton Athletic was postponed last Saturday and called off again on Tuesday, enabling them to have a full week of preparation for this weekend.

Dave Kitson will miss the game through suspension with Deane Smalley set to deputise.

See inside sport for full story.

• *Dave Kitson will serve the last of his two-match ban.*

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